



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Police Silver Star Awards

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2006

PREPARED BY: Jerry J. Adams, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Chief Jerry Adams will present two Silver Star awards to Officer Sierra Brucia and Detective Mike Kermgard.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Silver Star is the department's second highest award. It is awarded to individuals who demonstrate outstanding bravery above and beyond what is expected in the normal course of duty.

Officer Sierra Brucia and Detective Mike Kermgard are receiving the Silver Star award for their actions during an incident at the USA Gas Station on Cherokee Lane, November 8, 2005. Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Detectives attempted to arrest a wanted parolee who vowed to not be taken alive. The parolee rammed one of the SIU vehicles. Officer Brucia and Detective Kermgard ran up to the suspect vehicle, identified themselves as the police several times, and ordered him to surrender. The suspect refused to cooperate and reached for a black handgun tucked in his waistband. Officer Brucia saw the suspect reaching for the gun so, fearing for Detective Kermgard's safety, he leaned in through the open passenger door, pushed the suspect's girlfriend out of harm's way, and shot the suspect once in the abdomen. The gun fell to the floor but the suspect leaned over and picked it up again. Detective Kermgard saw the suspect was bringing the gun up to point it at him so he fired one round at him. Officer Brucia saw the suspect was attempting to point the gun at Detective Kermgard so he shot him one more time. The suspect dropped the gun and was taken into custody.

The suspect survived and is awaiting trial. The handgun turned out to be a replica of a black Beretta 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

The officers showed a tremendous amount of discipline by only firing three rounds in a highly volatile situation. All three rounds struck the suspect. In a split second, they took into consideration the incident was occurring in the lot of an open business at noontime at the same time they were only a few feet from a busy Cherokee Lane. They could have easily stood by near the entrance of the gas station but, in response to the suspect ramming the SIU vehicle, they felt it was imperative to move up to his vehicle to protect the other SIU detectives and the public and to keep the situation from escalating.

The Awards Committee is made up of five officers and four civilians. Individuals are nominated by their peers, supervisors, civilian employees, and the public. Sworn officers, civilian employees and volunteers are eligible for the awards. The awards committee conducts investigation into each nomination. These investigations may include interviews with the nominees, their co-workers, their supervisors, the public, and anyone else who might provide information regarding the nomination. The awards committee votes

APPROVED: _____


Blair King, City Manager


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by secret ballot and the results are forwarded to an executive committee (two individuals who are not associated with the committee) for final review.

Please note all other police awards are due to be presented at a departmental luncheon held earlier March 1, 2006, at LPD.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING AVAILABLE: N/A



Jerry J. Adams
Chief of Police

cc: City Attorney